

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:
a shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula; and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion and a second toe portion, the first and second toe portions being rotatably coupled with the shaft by a split ball joint assembly, the split ball joint assembly allowing the first and second toe portions to rotate with respect to the shaft and with respect to each other, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 1 [[2]], wherein each toe portion comprises a ring mount.

4. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 3, wherein the split ball joint assembly further comprises a top ball shell and a bottom ball shell which together encase the ring mounts of the first and second toe portions to form a spherical split ball shell.

5. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 4, wherein the toe assembly further comprises a torsion spring to rotate the first toe portion and second toe portion to a second arrangement wherein the first toe portion and second toe portion are at least 8 mm apart.

6. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 1, wherein the foot further comprises an adjustable ankle coupling the first toe portion and the second toe portion to the shaft..

7. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 6, wherein the foot is moveable in six degrees of freedom relative to the shaft by adjusting the ankle.

8. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 6, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings.

9. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 8, wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

10. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 6, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball assembly, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball assembly is disposed.

11. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 10, wherein the spherical split ball assembly is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

12. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 1, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

13. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 12, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

14. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 13, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

15. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 1, further comprising an irrigator.

16. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 15, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.

17. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft, the ankle comprising an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings;

a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17 [[18]], wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

20. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17 [[18]], wherein each ball and socket ring has a hollow core through which the tension cable extends.

21. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 20, wherein the balls and socket rings are arranged so that applying tension to the cable wedges the balls and socket rings together to lock the ankle in position by friction.

22. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 20, wherein the balls and socket rings are shaped so that applying tension to the cable causes at least one ball to apply a force to at least one socket ring at an angle of at least 60 degrees in relation to the cable.

23. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed.

24. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 23, wherein the spherical split ball shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

25. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 23, wherein by applying tension to the cable the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing so that the position of the foot is fixed in relation to the shaft.

26. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 25, wherein the tension cable comprises a locking ball disposed within the housing and wherein applying tension to the cable moves the housing so that the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing.

27. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17, further comprising a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable.

28. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 27, wherein the handle comprises ratchet pawls which lock the cable under tension.

29. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 27, wherein the handle comprises a release button which unlocks the cable from tension.

30. (currently amended) A system for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the system comprising:
an endoscopic cannula; and

a tissue stabilizer comprising
a shaft sized to allow insertion through the endoscopic cannula, and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings.

Claims 31-32 (canceled).

33. (currently amended) A system as in claim 30 [[32]], wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

34. (original) A system as in claim 30, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed.

35. (original) A system as in claim 34, wherein the spherical split ball shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

36. (original) A system as in claim 30, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

37. (original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

38. (original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

39. (original) A system as in claim 30, further comprising an irrigator.
40. (original) A system as in claim 39, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.
41. (original) A system as in claim 39, wherein the irrigator comprises an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion.
42. (original) A system as in claim 41, wherein the dispenser comprises a plurality of beads coupled in a chain-like fashion.
43. (currently amended) A method of endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the method comprising:
inserting a tissue stabilizer through an endoscopic cannula wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft wherein the foot comprises at least two toe portions and an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft, the adjustable ankle comprising an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings, and each toe portion comprising at least one suction port;
adjusting the ankle to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft;
rotating at least one ball against an adjacent ring;
positioning the manipulable foot against the target tissue; and
applying suction to the target tissue through the at least one suction port to stabilize the target tissue.
44. (original) The method as in claim 43, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, said method further comprising rotating the first or second toe portions to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula.

Claim 45-46 (canceled).

47. (currently amended) The method as in claim 43 **[45]**, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed, said method further comprising rotating the spherical split ball shell within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

48. (original) The method as in claim 43, wherein the shaft has a suction lumen therethrough, said method further comprising inserting a suction tube through the suction lumen.

49. (original) The method as in claim 48, wherein the suction tube has a suction tip, said method further comprising connecting the suction tip with the at least one suction port.

50. (original) The method as in claim 43, wherein the shaft has an irrigation lumen therethrough, said method further comprising inserting an irrigator through the irrigation lumen.

51. (original) The method as in claim 50, wherein the irrigator comprises an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion, said method further comprising adjusting the dispenser so that the spout portion is directed at the target tissue.

52. (original) The method as in claim 51, further comprising supplying a fluid to the irrigator so that the fluid exits the spout portion.

53. (currently amended) A method of endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the method comprising:

inserting a tissue stabilizer through an endoscopic cannula wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end,

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft,
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft wherein the foot comprises at
least two toe portions, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port, and
a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the
cable locks the ankle in position
applying tension to the cable;
positioning the manipulable foot against the target tissue; and
applying suction to the target tissue through the at least one suction port to
stabilize the target tissue.

Claim 54 (canceled).

55. (currently amended) A method as in claim 53 [[54]], wherein the ankle
comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket
rings, each ball and socket ring having a hollow core through which the tension cable extends,
and wherein applying tension to the cable wedges the balls and socket rings together to lock the
ankle in position by friction.

56. (currently amended) A method as in claim 53 [[54]], wherein the foot
comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion by a spherical split ball
shell and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is
disposed, and wherein applying tension to the cable locks the spherical split ball shell within the
housing so that the position of the foot is fixed in relation to the shaft.

57. (original) A method as in claim 56, wherein the tension cable comprises a
locking ball disposed within the housing and wherein applying tension to the cable moves the
housing so that the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing.

58. (currently amended) A method as in claim 53 [[54]], wherein the tissue
stabilizer further comprises a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, and wherein
applying tension to the cable includes rotating the handle.

59. (original) A method as in claim 58, wherein the handle further comprises ratchet pawls, said method further comprising locking the cable under tension with the use of the ratchet pawls.

60. (original) A method as in claim 59, wherein the handle further comprises a release button, said method further comprising depressing the release button to unlock the cable from tension.

Claims 61-74 (Canceled).

75. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula; and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion and a second toe portion,

the first and second toe portions being rotatably coupled with the shaft by a rotating joint assembly comprising a split ball joint assembly, the rotating joint assembly providing that at least one of the first and second toe portions are rotatable with respect to the shaft and providing that the first and second toe portions are rotatable with respect to each other,

the first toe portion and second toe portion rotatable to at least a first toe arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula, and wherein the first toe arrangement is configured so that the first toe portion lies overlapping at least a portion of the second toe portion.

76. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, wherein each toe portion comprises at least one suction port configured so as to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization.

Claim 77 (canceled).

78. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75 [[77]], wherein the rotating joint assembly comprises a first a pivotal joint and a second pivotal joint, the first and second pivotal joints being coupled to the first and second toe portions respectively.

Claim 79 (canceled).

80. (currently amended) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75 [[79]], wherein the split ball joint assembly further comprises a first split ball portion coupled to the first toe portion, and a second split ball portion coupled to the first toe portion, the first and second split ball portions being disposed adjacent one another so as to define at least a portion of a generally spherical ball assembly.

81. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 80, wherein each toe portion comprises a ring mount.

82. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 81, wherein the first split ball portion is disposed adjacent the ring mount of the first toe, and the second split ball portion is disposed adjacent the ring mount of the second toe, the first and second split ball portions together encase the ring mounts of the first and second toe portions.

83. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft and coupling the foot to the shaft.

84. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising an irrigator.

85. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

86. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the foot in position with respect to the shaft and locks the toe portions in position with respect to one another.

87. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising at least one cleat device mounted to a portion of the foot, the cleat device being configured to releasably hold a flexible elongate member for vessel occlusion.

Claims 88-102 (canceled).

103. (new) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula; and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion, a second toe portion and an adjustable ankle rotatably coupling the first toe portion and the second toe portion with the shaft, the ankle comprising an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings, and each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula.

104. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the first and second toe portions are rotatably coupled to the shaft by a split ball joint assembly, the split ball joint assembly allowing the first and second toe portions to rotate with respect to the shaft and with respect to each other.

105. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 104, wherein each toe portion comprises a ring mount.

106. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 105, wherein the split ball joint assembly further comprises a top ball shell and a bottom ball shell which together encase the ring mounts of the first and second toe portions to form a spherical split ball shell.

107. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 106, wherein the toe assembly further comprises a torsion spring to rotate the first toe portion and second toe portion to a second arrangement wherein the first toe portion and second toe portion are at least 8 mm apart.

108. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the foot is moveable in six degrees of freedom relative to the shaft by adjusting the ankle.

109. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

110. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball assembly, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball assembly is disposed.

111. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 110, wherein the spherical split ball assembly is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

112. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

113. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 112, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

114. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 113, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

115. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, further comprising an irrigator.

116. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 115, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.

117. (new) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft;

a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell, wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed, and wherein each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position.

118. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings.

119. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 118, wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

120. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 118, wherein each ball and socket ring has a hollow core through which the tension cable extends.

121. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 120, wherein the balls and socket rings are arranged so that applying tension to the cable wedges the balls and socket rings together to lock the ankle in position by friction.

122. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 120, wherein the balls and socket rings are shaped so that applying tension to the cable causes at least one ball to apply a force to at least one socket ring at an angle of at least 60 degrees in relation to the cable.

124. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, wherein the spherical split ball shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

125. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, wherein by applying tension to the cable the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing so that the position of the foot is fixed in relation to the shaft.

126. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 125, wherein the tension cable comprises a locking ball disposed within the housing and wherein applying tension to the cable moves the housing so that the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing.

127. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, further comprising a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable.

128. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 127, wherein the handle comprises ratchet pawls which lock the cable under tension.

129. (new) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 127, wherein the handle comprises a release button which unlocks the cable from tension.

130. (new) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft;

a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula;

a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position; and

a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable, and wherein the handle comprises ratchet pawls which lock the cable under tension.

131. (new) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft;

a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula;

a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position; and

a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable, and wherein the handle comprises a release button which unlocks the cable from tension.

132. (new) A system for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the system comprising:

an endoscopic cannula;

a tissue stabilizer comprising

a shaft sized to allow insertion through the endoscopic cannula, and

a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and

second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

an irrigator comprising an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion.

133. (new) A system as in claim 132, further comprising an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft.

134. (new) A system as in claim 133, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings.

135. (new) A system as in claim 134, wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

136. (new) A system as in claim 133, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed.

137. (new) A system as in claim 136, wherein the spherical split ball shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

138. (new) A system as in claim 132, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

139. (new) A system as in claim 138, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

140. (new) A system as in claim 138, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

141. (new) A system as in claim 132, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.

142. (new) A system as in claim 132, wherein the dispenser comprises a plurality of beads coupled in a chain-like fashion.

143. (new) A method of endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the method comprising:

inserting a tissue stabilizer through an endoscopic cannula wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises

a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and an irrigation lumen therethrough, and

a manipulable foot connected with the shaft wherein the foot comprises at least two toe portions, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port;

positioning the manipulable foot against the target tissue;

applying suction to the target tissue through the at least one suction port to stabilize the target tissue; and

inserting an irrigator having an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion through the irrigation lumen; and

adjusting the dispenser so that the spout portion is directed at the target tissue.

144. (new) The method as in claim 143, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, said method further comprising rotating the first or second toe portions to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula.

145. (new) The method as in claim 143, wherein the tissue stabilizer further comprises an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft, said method further comprising adjusting the ankle to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

146. (new) The method as in claim 145, wherein the adjustable ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings, said method further comprising rotating at least one ball against an adjacent ring

147. (new) The method as in claim 145, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed, said method further comprising rotating the spherical split ball shell within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

148. (new) The method as in claim 143, wherein the shaft has a suction lumen therethrough, said method further comprising inserting a suction tube through the suction lumen.

149. (new) The method as in claim 148, wherein the suction tube has a suction tip, said method further comprising connecting the suction tip with the at least one suction port.

150. (new) The method as in claim 143, further comprising supplying a fluid to the irrigator so that the fluid exits the spout portion.